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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Mitsuo Zen

Application No.: 09/868,573

Art Unit: 1725

Filed: August 20, 2001

Examiner: L. Edmondson

For: SOLDER COATED MATERIAL
AND METHOD FOR ITS MANUFACTURE

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS OF ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Applicant wishes to briefly comment on the reasons for allowance in the Notice of Allowability mailed on March 24, 2004.

The Applicant agrees with the Examiner that none of the prior art references teach the various methods claimed in the present invention. However, the statement that the prior art teaches the method "essentially as claimed" is felt to be inaccurate. Firstly, the present application claims a number of different methods and products unrelated to the art referred to in the Notice of Allowability, and so to speak of "the method" is misleading. Secondly, the expression "essentially as claimed" suggests that there is an essence to the claimed invention(s) and

seems to take an inappropriate point of novelty approach to patentability. It is believed that it would be more accurate to simply state that the cited references do not teach the subject matter as a whole which is defined by the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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